

8. (Amended) [The currency device of claim 2 wherein] A currency evaluating device for receiving a stack of currency bills, rapidly discriminating the bills in the stack, and then re-stacking the bills comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving said stack of currency bills to be discriminated;

a transport mechanism for transporting said bills in the direction of the narrow dimension of the bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to a plurality of output receptacles, at a rate in excess of about 800 bills per minute;

a discriminating unit for determining the denomination of each of said bills, said discriminating unit including a detector positioned along a transport mechanism path between said input receptacle and one of said a plurality of output receptacles for receiving and re-stacking said bills after being discriminated by said discriminating unit; and

an authenticating unit for determining the genuineness of said bills; said authenticating unit [comprises:] having an ultraviolet light source for illuminating said bill to be tested[;], an ultraviolet light detector for generating an output signal responsive to ultraviolet light reflected by said bill[;], and a signal processor for receiving said ultraviolet detector output signal and determining the genuineness of said bill based upon said output signal.

11. (Amended) The currency device of claim [7] 8 wherein said output signal is responsive to the amount of ultraviolet light reflected from one or more areas of said bill.

12. (Amended) [The currency device of claim 2 wherein] A currency evaluating device for receiving a stack of currency bills, rapidly discriminating the bills in the stack, and then re-stacking the bills comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving said stack of currency bills to be discriminated;

a transport mechanism for transporting said bills in the direction of the narrow dimension of the bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to a plurality of output receptacles, at a rate in excess of about 800 bills per minute;

a discriminating unit for determining the denomination of each of said bills, said discriminating unit including a detector positioned along a transport mechanism path between said input receptacle and one of said a plurality of output receptacles for receiving and re-stacking said bills after being discriminated by said discriminating unit; and

an authenticating unit for determining the genuineness of said bills; said authenticating unit [comprises:] having an ultraviolet light source for illuminating said bill to be tested[;], an ultraviolet light detector for generating an output signal responsive to ultraviolet light reflected by said bill[;], a visible light detector for generating an output signal responsive to visible light emitted by said bill upon illumination of said bill by said ultraviolet light source[;] and a signal processor for receiving said ultraviolet light detector output signal and said visible light detector output signal and determining the genuineness of said bill based upon said ultraviolet light detector output signal and said visible light detector output signal.

14. (Amended) [The currency discrimination device of claim 2 wherein] A currency evaluating device for receiving a stack of currency bills, rapidly discriminating the bills in the stack, and then re-stacking the bills comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving said stack of currency bills to be discriminated;

a transport mechanism for transporting said bills in the direction of the narrow dimension of the bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to a plurality of output receptacles, at a rate in excess of about 800 bills per minute;

a discriminating unit for determining the denomination of each of said bills, said discriminating unit including a detector positioned along a transport mechanism path between said input receptacle and one of said a plurality of output receptacles for receiving and re-stacking said bills after being discriminated by said discriminating unit; and

an authenticating unit for determining the genuineness of said bills; said authenticating unit [comprises:] having a detection circuitry for detecting first characteristic information and second characteristic information from a scanned bill;

wherein said discriminating unit generates a first characteristic scanned pattern associated with said detected first characteristic information[;],

a memory for storing

(1) at least one first characteristic master pattern associated with first characteristic information for each of a plurality of recognizable denominations of genuine bills[;],

(2) at least one set of genuine second characteristic information for each of said plurality of recognizable denominations of genuine bills[;], and

a signal processor for

(1) performing a first comparison whereby at least a portion of said scanned pattern is compared with at least a portion of at least one of said master patterns[;],

(2) determining and indicating the denomination of said scanned bill when said scanned bill is one of said plurality of recognizable denominations or indicating an error based on said first comparison[;],

(3) retrieving at least a portion of at least one of said sets of genuine second characteristic information corresponding only to the denomination indicated by said first comparison regardless of which of said plurality of recognizable denominations said scanned bill is determined to be based on said first comparison[;],

(4) performing a second comparison whereby at least a portion of said detected second characteristic information is compared with said retrieved genuine second characteristic information[;], and

(5) indicating either the genuineness of said scanned bill or an error based on said second comparison.

Please add new Claim 23 as follows.

-23. A currency evaluating device for receiving a stack of currency bills, rapidly discriminating the bills in the stack, and then re-stacking the bills comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving said stack of currency bills to be discriminated;